

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00560 140859Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CPR-01 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 MCT-01  
EB-08 IO-13 AF-08 NEA-10 EA-07 ACDA-07 CU-02 TRSE-00  
/117 W

-----140902Z 020834 /17

O R 140757Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8901  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL BELFAST  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 560

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR EI  
SUBJ: VISIT OF IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO WASHINGTON

1. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD NOW PLANS TO DEPART DUBLIN VIA CHARTER TO LONDON, ARRIVING WASHINGTON DULLES AT 1450 HRS LOCAL TIME ON BA521 MARCH 14. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY STATE SECRETARY ROBERT MCDONAGH, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES NOEL DORR (POLITICAL), SEAN DONLON (NORTHERN IRELAND AND INFORMATION), AND KESTER HEASLIP (ECONOMIC). MRS FITZGERN BUT FOUR WEEKS AGO HE SUFFERED A PHYSICAL COLLAPSE, APPARENTLY CAUSED BY EXHAUSTION AND LATE-WINTER INFLUENZA AND HE HAS BEEN CONFINED AT HOME BY HIS DOCTORS. DESPITE DOCTORS' ORDERS, HE HAS BEEN RUNNING IRISH FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND OTHER AFFAIRS, AS IS HIS WONT, VIA THE TELEPHONE, AND WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL MANAGE THE U.S. VISIT WITH HIS USUAL MENTAL AGILITY.

3. EUR/NE IS AWARE OF FITZGERALD'S SCHEDULE, WHICH IS BEING WORKED OUT BY THE IRISH EMBASSY. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00560 140859Z

THE MAIN EVENTS ARE PRESENTING THE SHAMROCK AT THE WHITE HOUSE AT 2 PM ON MARCH 17, ST. PATRICK'S DAY, AND A SESSION WITH SECRETARY VANCE AT 0930 ON MARCH 18. BECAUSE OF HIS HEALTH FITZGERALD HAS CANCELLED HIS PLANNED MAJOR ADDRESS AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ON MARCH 16, AND INSTEAD WILL GIVE HIS MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE PUBLIC MESSAGE AT THE SCHEDULED NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON ON MARCH 18.

4. FITZGERALD'S ASSISTANTS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AS MANY SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS FOR THEMSELVES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS CAN BE ARRANGED FOR MARCH 15. (THAT DAY IS SCHEDULED AS A DAY OF REST FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER.) THE THREE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES (DORR IS SHORTLY TO BE ELEVATED TO DEPUTY SECRETARY) AND SECRETARY MCDONAGH ARE THE ENTIRE TOP ECHELON OF THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTRY.

5. SINCE HIS INDISPOSITION I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK WITH FITZGERALD IN ANY DETAIL CONCERNING HIS VISIT, THOUGH I HAVE HAD SOME BRIEF CHATS ON THE PHONE. FROM THESE AND FROM EMBASSY OFFICERS' DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS ASSISTANTS IT IS CLEAR THAT HE INTENDS TO MAKE THIS A "GET ACQUAINTED" VISIT. HOWEVER, KNOWING HIS PROCLIVITY FOR JUMPING INTO SUBSTANCE, I WOULD ESTIMATE THAT HE WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY WITH THE PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS NORTHERN IRELAND. EUR/NE KNOWS IN DETAIL THE IRISH VIEWPOINTS, WHICH I WOULD SUMMARIZE AS:

-- THE GOI BELIEVES THAT ESSENTIALLY THE SOLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND MUST BE WORKED OUT THROUGH A NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL PROCESS WHICH WILL GRADUALLY BRING TOGETHER THE TWO DIVIDED COMMUNITIES. BRINGING THE NORTH UNDER THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT IS A DISTANT CONCEPT NOT USABLE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

-- THE TERRORISTS OF BOTH SIDES DO NOT REPRESENT ANY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE BUT ARE A KIND OF INCUBUS WHICH HAS FLOURISHED BECAUSE OF A POLITICAL STALEMATE. DESPITE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00560 140859Z

A PATINA OF IDEALOGY THE PRINCIPAL TERRORIST GROUP, THE IRA, IS A SMALL AND DANGEROUS FACTION WHICH MUST BE PUT DOWN. THE GOI IS SATISFIED THAT IT HAS WORKED OUT AN EFFECTIVE MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE ON SECURITY MEASURES. ALTHOUGH THE ACTION IS PRIMARILY IN THE NORTH, THE GOI RECOGNIZES THAT THE PROVO IRA IS A DANGEROUS THREAT TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND ITSELF.

-- ALTHOUGH SMALL IN NUMBERS ON THE GROUND, THE IRA HAS AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA WING, AND ONE TARGET IS THE IRISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. ITS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIMARILY REPRESENTED IN THE U.S. BY THE IRISH CAUCUS AND THE NORTHERN AID COMMITTEE (NORAI), ARE QUITE SIMPLY A FUND-RAISING OPERATION WHICH SPENDS THEIR EFFORTS IN OBTAINING MONEY FOR THE IRA, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF GUNS AND EXPLOSIVES. THE GUNS AND EXPLOSIVES KILL ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY INNOCENT PEOPLE, ALL WITH AN AVOWED PURPOSE OF GETTING THE "IMPERIALIST" BRITISH TO ABANDON NORTHERN IRELAND. THE BASIC PROBLEM IN NORTHERN IRELAND, HOWEVER, HAS VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THE

RATHER UNHAPPY AND UNWILLING BRITISH HEGEMONY, BUT RATHER WITH A COMPLEX DIVIDED COMMUNITY OF ONE MILLION PROTESTANTS AND HALF A MILLION CATHOLICS WHO HAVE NOT LEARNED TO LIVE TOGETHER.

-- MEANWHILE THE NORTHERN CANCER COMPLICATES LIFE FOR THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WHICH HAS MADE GIANT STRIDES IN THE LAST THREE DECADES TO MAKE ITSELF A MODER, ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED, LIBERAL, EUROPEAN COUNTRY WHICH CAN HAVE A VOICE IN THE EC AND IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

6. THE PRINCIPAL PLANNER OF FITZGERALD'S TRIP, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEAN DONLON, ASSURED US THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS EITHER WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECRETARY. WITH THE SECRETARY FITZGERALD WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON, INCLUDING SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, CHINA, AND GENERAL EUROPEAN ISSUES.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DUBLIN 00560 140859Z

FITZGERALD WILL GIVE A VIGOROUS DEFENCE OF THE IDEA OF AN EC PRESENCE AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE. HE WILL ALSO STRESS THAT IN HIS OPINION BELGRADE, SALT, AND THE CIEC ARE THE MOST CRUCIAL ISSUES FACING THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD IN 1977. IN EACH OF THESE ISSUES IRELAND SIDES GENERALLY WITH THE EC CONSENSUS BUT WITH A SLIGHTLY LIBERAL TILT, ESPECIALLY ON CIEC.

7. ON BILATERAL ISSUES DONLON TELLS US THAT FITZGERALD WILL BRING UP NOTHING BUT THE NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS. HE IS HOPING FOR A JOINT-COMMUNIQUE, AT BEST WITH THE PRESIDENT BUT VERY ACCEPTABLY WITH THE SECRETARY. THE IMPORTANT ASPECT, ACCORDING TO DONLON, IS TO COUNTER THE CURRENT IRA/CAUCUS/NORAIID/PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. CURLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DUBLIN00560  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770086-0856  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DUBLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770364/aaaacdvi.tel  
**Line Count:** 153  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 3e5f7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3121321  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO WASHINGTON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EI, US, (FITZGERALD, TOM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3e5f7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009